

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

TWO POTOMAC YARDS 2733 SOUTH CRYSTAL DRIVE ARLINGTON, VA 22202

DATE: January 9, 2015	PREPARED BY	Y:
CASE #: OI-AR-2011-ADM-		RENCE #: Hotline 2010-0477, 36, Hotline 2010-358, Hotline 2010
TITLE: OFFICE OF CHEMI	ICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTI	ON PREVENTION
	CASE CLOSING REPOR	Т
Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
Unknown	Washington, DC	
alleging a conflict of interest be (OCSPP) and big business, namused studies, toxicity in	made a complaint via to tween EPA, Office of Chemical nely Coreports, inhalation data, chemistronsating Finally, Complainant	the OIG Hotline #2010-477, Safety and Pollution Prevention omplainant also alleged by data, etc., without alleged falsified and that former EPA, OCSPP
and hit the markets shortly	and learned that approximately an was approved by the EPA, OPP	was d hit the markets shortly thereafter. on approximately struggled from to

OI Referrals Made:

- 1). On March 17, 2010, EPA, OIG, Office of Cyber Investigations and Homeland Security (OCI-HS), referred this complaint to EPA, Region 9, Regional Enforcement Coordinator OIG Hotline #2010-336.
- 2). On April 1, 2010, EPA, OIG, OCI-HS, referred this complaint to EPA, CID-OIG Hotline #2010-358.
- On April 13, 2010, EPA, OIG, OCI-HS, referred this complaint to EPA, OECA, and EPA OCSPP

 OIG Hotline #2010-358.
- **4).** On August 16, 2010, EPA, OIG, OCI-HS, referred this complaint to EPA, CID OIG Hotline #2010-468.
- **5).** On October 7, 2010, EPA, OIG, OCI-HS, referred this complaint to EPA, OIG OI, Headquarters OIG Hotline #2010-477.
- 6). On December 23, 2010, EPA, OIG, OI, Northeastern Resource Center, referred this complaint to EPA, Region 4, CID.
- 7). On February 11, 2011, EPA, OIG OI, Headquarters, referred this complaint to EPA, OIG, OPE.

Interviews of EPA OCSPP, Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) personnel were conducted during which OPP explained the following:

are substantial similar products, meaning the active ingredients are relatively in the same portion, same chemical composition, and similar inert ingredients. In such circumstances there are approved mechanisms by which a similar product can seek expedited registration using another products data. OPP

further stated the checklist for the	registration package appears to be intact and complete.
Lastly, OPP, explained when compani	es have a dispute with one another regarding the use of
their data and compensation, it is up to	the companies to resolve that issue, and not the EPA.
Reviews of the documents obtained su	ggested that took the necessary and
correct measures to register client'	s product with the EPA for consideration of approval.

DISPOSITION: Unfounded. Closed

This investigation was unable to substantiate any allegations of misconduct involving EPA personnel. Additionally, all appropriate referrals have been made, therefore this investigation is closed in this office.



Subject(s)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Other Data

DATE: December 3, 201	5	PREPARED BY:
CASE #: OI-AR-2014-A	DM-0038	CROSS REFERENCE #:
TITLE:	GS-14 ,	, Office of Civil Rights

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Location

	N/A
incurred \$54,191.84 in AT&T international roan	A Office of Civil Rights,
FINDINGS: During January 2014, information w	vas received from
8	Information Management Group/Mobile
Devices Business Office, Research Triangle Park	(RTP), North Carolina. The information included
call detail report and billing dispute resolution dat	
information indicated was issued a mob	ile device with a phone number listed as
prior to receiving the device with a phone m	
report listed in eBusiness, EPA employee	reported the device ending in the
numbers as damaged and excessed in 2009.	
	celled. Both entries were made on June 17, 2011.
Reviews of phone records in November 2014 and	
AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	he numbers was used exclusively to make and
receive calls from the country of Benin from Febr	
	indicated the proper reporting procedures
	e extensive roaming charges from being billed to the
	o calls from and to Benin, to the exclusion of any
	abuse by an EPA user and concluded the calls were
consistent with a stolen device. During January and the stolen device of the stolen device.	
	did not reveal any data regarding a
	Benin, however, one e-mail contained a full garding the details of how the device ending in the
	2009. On October 27, 2015, retired EPA employee
	as serving in the capacity of
	ss entries described above on June 2011.



CASE #: OI-SA-2011-CFR-2861

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CROSS REFERENCE #:

75 Hawthorne Street, 7th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105

DATE: October 9, 2015

TITLE: LEAD REMEDIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (LRAA)

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
Lead Remediation Association	137 Josiah Avenue	
of America	San Francisco, CA 94112	

VIOLATIONS: 18 USC SEC 286 Conspiracy to defraud the government 18 USC SEC 641 Embezzlement and theft of public money

ALLEGATION: This investigation was initiated based on a referral from the EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD). The referral described problems located during a desk review of EPA grantee Lead Remediation Associates of America (LRAA). These included a lack of internal controls, missing progress reports, project results not being achieved, and a lack of adequate documentation. Additionally multiple suspect expenditures and purchases appeared to have been made with EPA grant funds.

FINDINGS: On September 5, 2007, EPA awarded grant number AB83363501 to the LRAA in the amount of \$249,988 to support the San Francisco Bay Area Lead Safe Work Practices Initiative. The scope of the grant included providing training workshops for contractors, property owners, and day laborers; producing and distributing 3,750 DVDs covering lead safety FAQs and informational updates; and distributing various educational brochures and fact sheets.

This office could not substantiate whether or not individuals were being trained in accordance with the grant due to the lack of documentation by LRAA. Also, some of the work performed by LRAA was not considered an acceptable deliverable by EPA standards. However, LRAA did

completed some of the tasks on the grant, albeit not to the standards EPA had hoped for. EPA did not make these standards clear in the grant agreement.

Through a review of bank records, the investigation revealed EPA grant funds were used for personal use, such as meals and entertainment. Most, if not all, of the funds used for personal use were reimbursed.

DISPOSITION: This investigation was presented to the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) Northern District of California, Criminal Division. The USAO declined prosecution (b) (5)

A Civil Assistant United States Attorney, USAO, Northern District of California, was consulted.

(b) (5) that the matter would not be accepted.

A referral was made to EPA OIG Forensic Audits. The results of the audit are pending.

This investigation was presented to EPA, Suspension and Debarment. After a discussion the investigation was declined citing (b) (5), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

No further investigative activity is warranted and it is recommended this investigation be closed.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

WESTERN RESOURCE CENTER 75 HAWTHORNE STREET, 7TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

REFERRED FOR ACTION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING

LEAD REMEDIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (LRAA) OI-SA-2011-CFR-2861

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Narrative Entities and Individuals Prosecutive Status Exhibits	Section A Section B Section C
Distribution: DIRECTOR OF FORENSIC AUDITS	Approvals: Special Agent
	Acting Special Agent in Charge

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CASE NO.: OI-SA-2011-CFR-2861 **DATE OPENED:** 09/26/2011

CASE TITLE: LEAD REMEDIATION **CASE AGENT:**

> ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (LRAA)

OFFICE OF **CASE CATEGORY:** PROGRAM INTEGRITY **OFFICE:**

> **INVESTIGATIONS -**SAN FRANCISCO WESTERN RESOURCE

CENTER

JOINT AGENCIES: FEDERAL BUREAU OF

INVESTIGATION

CALIFORNIA JURISDICTION:

SECTION A - NARRATIVE

Predication

On September 15, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigation (OI), received a referral from the EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD). The OGD referral identified issues revealed during a desk review of EPA grantee Lead Remediation Associates of America (LRAA). These issues included a lack of internal controls, missing progress reports, project results not being achieved, and a lack of adequate documentation. Multiple suspect expenditures and purchases appear to have been made with EPA grant funds.

Possible violations:

- 1. TITLE 18 USC SEC 286, Conspiracy to defraud the government
- 2. TITLE 18 USC SEC 641, Embezzlement and theft of public money, property or records

Impact/Dollar Loss

LRAA was awarded a \$249,988 EPA grant.

Synopsis

This office could not substantiate whether or not individuals were being trained in accordance with the grant due to the lack of documentation by LRAA. Also, it appears that some of the work performed by LRAA may not be considered an acceptable deliverable by EPA standards. However, LRAA does appear to have completed some of the tasks on the grant, albeit not to the standards EPA had hoped for.

This office did determine that EPA grant funds were being used for personal use. Most, if not all, of the funds used for personal use were reimbursed.

Due to the repayment of the grants funds it was determined (b) (5) investigation was not accepted for prosecution. This office was advised that due to (b) (5) this investigation would also not be prosecuted on a civil level.

This investigation is being referred to the Office of Audit for any action that is deemed appropriate.

Details

<u>Allegation 1</u>: LRAA did not complete tasks on the grant and did not provide documentation to support task completion.

Allegation 1 Findings: On September 5, 2007, EPA awarded grant number AB83363501 to the LRAA in the amount of \$249,988 to support the San Francisco Bay Area Lead Safe Work Practices Initiative. The scope of the grant included providing training workshops for contractors, property owners, and day laborers; producing and distributing 3,750 DVDs covering lead safety FAQs and informational updates; and distributing various educational brochures and fact sheets. The project budget period was September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011. EPA Grant and Interagency Agreements Management Division identified issues revealed during a desk review of LRAA. These issues included a lack of internal controls, missing progress reports, project results not being achieved, and a lack of adequate documentation. Multiple suspect expenditures and purchases appear to have been made with grant funds. (Exhibit 1)

On January 24, 2012,	, was interviewed and stated
one of first projects at	was a series of instructional videos regarding the proper safety
procedures with working with lead	d. working on the videos shortly after
working at in September 2	011, and continuing to work on them through October 2011.
was tasked with putting the regula	tions into a format which would be educational and entertaining.
was aware that the videos v	were created pursuant to an EPA grant, but was not sure what the
terms of the grant were.	scalled that completing the videos was a high priority of
they would not have to worry abou	at the EPA grant any longer.
reported that the only time	
	references to the LRAA <u>since</u> . reported that an individual
named helped with th	ne creation of the videos. was not an employee or a paid
consultant of A former	employee named also worked on the videos
before from	did most of the editing and production of the
videos. Since the creation of the v	videos, has not done any other video or media projects.

has not seen any sort of commercial DVD burner, or any other method of mass producing the videos. has not seen since completion of the videos. (Exhibit 2)
On February 16, 2012, was interviewed. is stated has known for approximately years. In August 2010, Shortly thereafter, asked as The business primarily involved consulting work on a grant projects on the Around August 2011, became very serious about completing the grant from the EPA. described as being obsessed with finishing the EPA project.
had a media duplicator and a camera which purchased from the EPA grant funds and was keeping the duplicator and camera in storage somewhere in San Francisco. reportedly told would be able to use the equipment for other purposes once the grant was done. However, never saw any of the equipment used. recalled teaching a number of classes on lead remediation. and and worked on the EPA grant and produced a series of videos, which appeared in a couple of segments before left did not know if any physical videos were produced or if they were only published on the internet. (Exhibit 3)
On April 11, 2012, was interviewed and reported was the owner of a painting company based in San Francisco, California. company, specialized in dealing with lead abatement. gained expertise by attending classes on lead abatement at in San Francisco during the mid 1990s. Tole under the EPA grant was to provide expertise on lead remediation to about the lead remediation process. In handled all the administration of the grant and the interactions with the EPA. In and the would occasionally conduct classes in lead abatement. Typically the classes would be given to day laborers. According to the was in charge of documenting the classes. In also helped with the creation of a series of instructional videos for lead remediation. In stated the DVD burner purchased was in the office. In was waiting for EPA to sign off on his videos before started burning additional instructional tapes. (Exhibit 4)
On May 22, 2012, was interviewed and stated is the has been since in an earlier grant. In a capacity as wrote a proposal to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors regarding the issue. The Board was interested, and had provided funding to an organization called in an earlier grant. In a followed up with a proposal to EPA in June of 2007. In 2007, EPA policy allowed for training of day laborers in spite of potentially funding the training of undocumented workers.
In 2008, the federal regulations regarding working with lead changed and any instructional materials produced at the time would have been obsolete. was hoping for additional grants from the EPA and/or state entities, but no additional money came through. As a result, wanted to wait to produce the videos once the regulations were clear in order to avoid having to reshoot. did maintain a list of people who attended the classes, but some did not want to sign because they were day laborers who were not always documented. filmed most of the videos in June 2011, but it is still an ongoing process. (Exhibit 5)

On September 14, 2012, an email was sent to by Project Officer, EPA. In the email requested that the DVD's be sent to him for a thorough review. In noted that videos posted on YouTube.com had inconsistent sound levels and were of poor quality. As a result, Lead Renovation Program Specialists within EPA need to review DVDs. It also requested "documentation, information and examples of the materials developed and provided to participants for the community outreach and training portion of the grant." Other documents were also requested such as community outreach contact information, copies of outreach letters, and curriculums of various conferences and workshops. (Exhibit 6)

On September 25, 2012, grant documents were reviewed. It was noted that only four General Ledgers were submitted listing expenditures and income on the grant. They are dated 07/16/2008-08/14/2008, 09/16/2008-10/15/2008, 10/16/2008-11/17/2008, and 12/13/2008-01/15/2009. A review of these ledgers revealed that on 20 occasions, cash withdrawals were made for stipends for day laborer students, amounting to 376 students reportedly receiving stipends. Also, nine lists which contained names of individuals who reportedly attended the classes conducted by LRAA were reviewed. The dates of the classes were listed as July 11, 2008; August 15, 2008; September 2, 2008; September 11, 2008; and September 24, 2008. One of the lists is undated, however the layout is similar to that of the September 24, 2008 list and contains approximately seven of the same names as that list contains. None of the lists provided identifying information for the attendees and the locations of the trainings was not identified. (Exhibit 7)

Allegation 2: EPA grant funds were used for personal use.

Allegation 2 Findings: During the	May 22, 2012, interview of	acknowledged wrot	te
checks to self on occasion and			pay
expenses relating to the contract.	advised wrote a check	for the camera equipment to	
self because the camera compa	any would not accept a large chec	THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF	
to use cash for the transaction.	stated would occasionally		
pay bills for the LRAA. previo			money
to quickly enough to back up	the checks, and they would occas	sionally bounce. (Exhibit 5)	

The September 25, 2012, review of grant documents revealed four occasions where the transaction detail is "Misc. personal expense to be reimbursed" and two occasions where the transaction detail is "Deposit to reimburse..." Other transaction details included "bank fees," "gas for meetings", and "miscellaneous." (Exhibit 7)

A standard form 424B, Assurance-Non-Construction Programs, was located amongst the grant documents reviewed. It is signed by and item number 3 states: "Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain."

Other investigative techniques were used during the course of this investigation. It is anticipated that an audit of LRAA's records will reveal the same information discovered during the use of the aforementioned investigative techniques.

Disposition

This investigation was presented to the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) Northern District of California, Criminal Division. The USAO declined prosecution (b) (5)
A Civil Assistant United States Attorney, USAO, Northern District of California, was consulted. (b) (5) , it was advised that the matter would not be accepted.
This office discussed this investigation with Attorney, EPA Office of Grants and Debarment, Memorandums from this investigation were provided to who is currently working to prepare (b) (5) recommendation.
This investigation is being referred to the Office of Audits for any action that is deemed appropriate.
SECTION B – ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS
Title & Company: LEAD REMEDIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
Role: Subject Business Address: 137 Josiah Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94112 Business Phone: EPA Employee: N
Name of Person: Title & Company: Lead Remediation Association of America Role: Subject Business Address: Business Phone: EPA Employee: N
SECTION C – PROSECUTIVE STATUS
ADMIN/CRIMINAL/CIVIL ACTION(S): LEAD REMEDIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, On August 10, 2012, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) David Callaway, Northern District of California, declined prosecution in (b) (5)
Attorney is working on (b) (5) recommendation for LRAA.
ADMIN/CRIMINAL/CIVIL ACTION(S): On August 10, 2012, AUSA Callaway declined prosecution in this matter (b) (5)
Attorney is working on (b) (5) recommendation for

EXHIBITS

DESCRIPTION	EXHIBIT
CI-09/26/2011	1
MOI-1/24/2012-	2
MOI-02/16/2012-	3
MOI-04/11/2012-	4
MOI-05/22/2012-	5
Other Document-09/14/2012-Email to from EPA	6
MOA-09/25/2012-Grant docs reviewed	7